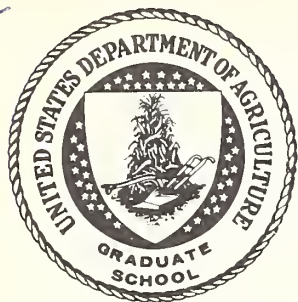


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Reserve
1.984
F75



GRADUATE SCHOOL

CONTINUING EDUCATION
FOR THE FEDERAL
COMMUNITY

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

JUL 24 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

July 1969

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 5

Employee Development Officers' Luncheon

(N.B. There will be no regular Faculty Luncheon
in August)

SUMMER COURSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people interested in our current "Study Discussion Groups for Federal summer employees and other young adults," provided some lively discussion at the July faculty luncheon.

Largely at the instigation of such young people, we are initiating this summer about 26 six-week courses, covering a wide range of subject matter.

Jim Jones, who directs Mayor Washington's Youth Unit and spoke briefly at our luncheon, has been working with us in setting up the courses -- trying to design them so that they would bring in local people. Mr. Jones explained that he is attempting to "focus on getting young people in the inner city involved in government."

Don Paarlberg, U. S. Department of Agriculture Director of Agricultural Economics and a member of the Graduate School General Administration Board opened the luncheon meeting with brief remarks on the value of the School.



Pictured during the faculty luncheon are students (l. to r. standing) Carol Thayer, Norene Bye, Paul Zeisatt, Mike Holt and Tom Krumreich (l. to r. seated) Mona Beard, Linda Artis and discussion leader Dr. J. James McPherson.

Jane Glennie, who teaches a Graduate School workshop on Briefing, Interviewing, and Presentation Skills, shared with us some of her thoughts on the value of discussion as a teaching method.

She presented herself as advocate, despite what she described as a spate of current criticism of group discussion as "overrated and overused," and a device that "wastes time, kills initiative, and reduces problem-solving to its lowest common denominator."

Properly used, however, and with the right kind of participants and leader, Mrs. Glennie asserted, group discussion is a valuable method of conducting human affairs, making it possible to bring together a wide variety of ideas, talents, knowledge, and insights.



Jane S. Glennie

Conditions under which discussion can do more harm than good, Mrs. Glennie enumerated as when: the group is composed of excessively homogeneous or heterogeneous people; there are wide gaps in knowledge among participants, group pressures toward conformity are strong; the nature of the problem requires uninterrupted concentration; self-indulgence is rampant; manipulators of ideas remain hidden; personal interests are irreconcilable; the group is too large for unrestricted communication; or basic and valued principles are compromised.

Conversely, she listed as conditions under which discussion can be the best communication method as when: both common purpose and divergent backgrounds are present; solving of the problem can benefit from the interplay of many minds; the participants can trust one another; the participants are willing and able to converse rationally; individual differences are respected and encouraged; and the participants have some knowledge of the techniques of good discussion.

Mrs. Glennie discussed also various formats for discussion, requirements for selecting and phrasing the problem for discussion, arranging the meeting and agenda, and variations in discussion techniques. She also explored briefly the subject of functional leadership and its role in inspiring creative and critical thinking. She listed psychological characteristics of an ideal leader and of an ideal participant, and closed her remarks with some suggestions for developing good discussion and positive functional leadership.

Jana Johnson, from HEW's Office of Education, who was one of those instrumental in getting our summer program set up, had talked with a number of prospective enrollees about what their expectations for the program are -- and shared those thoughts with us at the luncheon.

One thing, she stressed, that the young people are looking for is intellectual "gutsiness." She added that the course topics are quite broad and that students would need to be told where to look for resource material -- especially resource material that could be explored following the course.



Jana Johnson

Students also wonder how instructors will utilize the fact that Washington is both the capital and an urban area, Miss Johnson reported. Will they relate their courses to the city?

Student-participation and flexibility are two attributes prospective participants would like to see built into the summer courses, she noted, adding that on-going Senate hearings, conferences, and the like provide opportunities for involvement here not available elsewhere.

Feed-back and student-involvement, Mrs. Johnson said, would provide guidance for structuring next year's courses. She expressed the hope that the students would become involved, take an active part in the courses, and express their interests so that next year's courses could more closely reflect students' own desires.

T. ROY REID

The death of T. Roy Reid, at his home in Tallahassee, Florida, June 17, took a friend of the Graduate School who helped shape its course during the 1940's and 50's. Dr. Reid was 79.

Born on a farm in Gowensville, South Carolina, he became Director of the USDA Office of Personnel after serving as assistant to Secretary of Agriculture, Claude R. Wicker. Dr. Reid became ex-officio chairman of the Graduate School's General Administration Board in 1941, a post he filled until he retired in 1954 after 37 years with USDA. At that time he became Director of the Graduate School and served in that capacity until the summer of 1958.

Dr. Reid's telling contributions to the School arose from his ability to inspire people of all ages to develop their talents through education, his understanding of the manpower needs of the Federal government, and his fine relationships with officials in and out of government. He has left his mark on all of us who knew him and worked with him.

FACULTY NOTES

Reza Arasteh, who teaches Graduate School courses in Literary Masterpieces of the Orient and Psychological Foundations of Creativity for Professional Improvement was welcomed recently into membership in the Division of Psychotherapy of

the American Psychological Association.

*

Ralph Stauber, who recently closed out his long-time teaching service with the Graduate School, received a moving letter of tribute from a student, Fermin Aguilar, who said, in part, "I want you to know that I consider it a privilege to have attended your lectures, which gave me unforgettable knowledge and wonderful experience."

*

Benjamin Abramowitz, who teaches a Graduate School course in creative painting, recently conducted a course in creative behavior at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Students were teachers, psychologists, and behaviorists. Heads of the university's Institute in Educational Psychology, for whom the course was conducted, expressed hope that the project would bring about a more responsive interdisciplinary structure in their graduate and undergraduate programs.

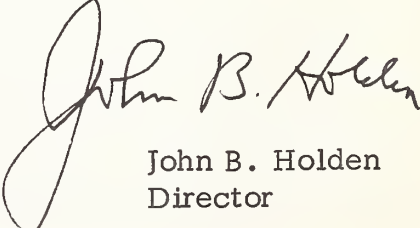
GRADUATE SCHOOL LIBRARY COLLECTION

The National Agricultural Library has just moved to its new building at the Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland. Since the entire staff was needed to expedite this move, the Library was unable to provide service to our faculty and students at the beginning of the summer session.

For the remainder of this summer session, the Library, Room 1052, South Agriculture Building, will provide limited service from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

We sincerely hope that at the beginning of our next school year, we shall be able to make our own Graduate School collection more accessible and give our teachers and students better service.

If we can be of any help, please call Vera Jensen or Sidney Child on DU8-4419 or code 111, extension 4419.



John B. Holden
Director